



API: Gasoline demand climbed in February; overall oil demand fell
Oil & Gas Journal to: Angela McFadden

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• Seven US governors ask Obama to move ahead on OCS

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• US drilling rig count climbs 11 units to 1,984

• Rialto makes progress in Gazelle field offshore Ivory Coast

• Sprawling Enyenra oil field appraised offshore Ghana

• Shell eyes Marcellus petrochemical site

API: Gasoline demand climbed in February; overall oil demand fell
US oil demand fell by 2.3% in February to average 18.4 million b/d compared with February 2011, according to the latest monthly statistical report from the American Petroleum Institute.

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IMF seeks comments on resource taxation
The International Monetary Fund has begun a “consultation process” seeking views on “the best way to tax natural resources and how to use the money earned to boost standards of living in the countries that own them.”

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Seven US governors ask Obama to move ahead on OCS
Governors from seven US coastal states urged US President Barack Obama to accelerate the pace and level of Gulf of Mexico and Alaska offshore exploration and production permitting; expand access to new offshore areas for traditional and renewable energy development; implement federal revenue-sharing for all states that host development off their shores; and expand assessments of offshore resources, particularly in areas currently not available for leasing.

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EPA finds no health concern in first Dimock, Pa., water well samples
Initial results from samples of the first 11 of 60 water wells in Dimock, Pa., did not show contamination levels that could present a health concern, the US Environmental Protection Agency's Region 3 office in Philadelphia said on Mar. 15.

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MARKET WATCH: Talk of SPR release drops oil prices
Oil prices dropped Mar. 15 on reports US President Barack Obama raised the possibility of releasing strategic petroleum reserves in a Washington meeting with British Prime Minister Cameron. However, some of the initial loss was recovered after the White House labeled the report as "inaccurate" with the issue undecided.

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Chevron asks Brazil oil regulator to suspend Frade operations
Chevron Corp. subsidiary Chevron Brasil Upstream Frade Ltda. has requested authorization from Brazil's National Petroleum Agency (ANP) for a temporary suspension of field production operations at Frade field offshore Brazil as a precautionary measure because Chevron found a small new seep.

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US drilling rig count climbs 11 units to 1,984
US oil and gas drilling activity this week increased by 11 units to 1,984 total rigs working. The rig count for the week ended Mar. 16 was up by 264 rigs from the comparable period a year ago, Baker Hughes Inc. reported.

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Rialto makes progress in Gazelle field offshore Ivory Coast
Rialto Energy Ltd., Perth, started appraisal and pre-development of the Gazelle oil and gas field offshore Ivory Coast with the spudding of its Gazelle-P3 production well.

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Sprawling Enyenra oil field appraised offshore Ghana
Tullow Oil PLC said its Enyenra-4A appraisal well confirmed the existence of oil in good quality sandstone reservoirs in the southern part of Enyenra field offshore Ghana and the company is running injectivity tests to support waterflood design.

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Shell eyes Marcellus petrochemical site
Shell Chemical LP is studying land near Monaca, Penn., for the petrochemical complex it is considering to use ethane from natural gas produced from the Marcellus shale (OGJ Online, June 6, 2011).

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